

U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service **February 2000**

Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China What's at Stake for Kansas?

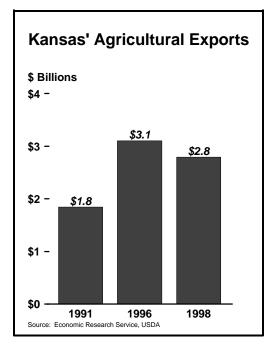
Kansas is an important producer of agricultural products and a major exporter. In 1998, the state's cash farm receipts totaled \$7.8 billion. As for exports, Kansas ranked sixth among all 50 states, with the value of agricultural products leaving the state

estimated at \$2.8 billion in 1998. These exports help boost farm prices and income, while supporting jobs both on the farm and off the farm in food processing, storage, and transportation.

Trade Benefits

The following key products are important to Kansas, and expected to reap some of the largest agricultural export gains from China's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Wheat--As the nation's largest wheat producer, Kansas' wheat and wheat product exports worldwide were estimated at \$703 million in 1998. China's grain policies are becoming more market-oriented and its WTO accession commitments will speed up this process, opening up real long-term opportunities for foreign suppliers. China committed to a nominal 1percent tariff on all grains imported within a tariff-rate



quota (TRQ). The TRQ on wheat will be initially set at 7.3 million metric tons and grow to 9.6 million metric tons by 2004. As a result of the 1999 U.S.-China bilateral agreement, China also agreed to import wheat and other grains from the Pacific Northwest. In 1998, China imported less than 2 million metric tons of wheat from all countries.

- # Beef and Pork--With one of the nation's largest inventories of cattle and hogs, Kansas' live animal and red meat exports worldwide were estimated at \$714 million in 1998. China currently imports very little beef, but income growth and rising demand from urban centers are expected to result in significantly increased demand for imports. China consumes far more pork than any other country, but its trade barriers have effectively closed its market to imports. Under its WTO accession agreement, China will lower its tariff from 45 percent to 12 percent on frozen beef cuts, and from 45 percent to 25 percent on chilled beef, by 2004. It will also cut its tariffs on frozen pork cuts and beef and pork offal from 20 percent to 12 percent. There will be no quantity limits at these tariff levels. As a result of the 1999 U.S.-China bilateral agreement, China agreed to accept all beef and pork from the United States that is certified wholesome by USDA.
- # Feed Grains--As one of the nation's top feed grain producers, Kansas' feed grains and product exports worldwide were estimated at \$486 million in 1998. China's grain policies are becoming

more market-oriented and its WTO accession commitments will speed up this process, opening up real long-term opportunities for foreign grain suppliers. China committed to a nominal 1-percent tariff on all grains imported within a tariff-rate quota (TRQ). The TRQ on corn will be initially set at 4.5 million metric tons and grow to 7.2 million metric tons by 2004. Private traders will be permitted to handle 25 percent of imports under the TRQ, growing to 40 percent. In 1998, China imported less than 250,000 metric tons of corn from all countries. China's commitment to end export subsidies will reduce its price competitiveness for corn in other markets.